

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 6, 7, and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 1 ~~12, further including wherein said main component consisting of laminated silicon steel sheets is fixed and supported by~~ a non-magnetic support member with high electrical resistance secured to on the side second proximate to the yoke for supporting said main component.
3. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 2, wherein said non-magnetic support member with high electrical resistance ~~is composed of~~ comprises a resin, bakelite, FRP, or another such non-metal.
4. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 1 ~~12, further comprising wherein said main component consisting of laminated silicon steel sheets is fixed and supported by a non-magnetic annular support member divided into a plurality of sections in the circumferential direction~~ secured to a peripheral portion of the main component.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 1 ~~12, wherein said magnetic annular protrusion consists of~~ comprises laminated silicon steel sheets.
9. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 8, wherein said main component and magnetic annular protrusion ~~consist of~~ comprises silicon steel sheets laminated in the direction facing the ~~air gap~~ pole pieces.

10. (Currently Amended) The MRI magnetic field generator according to claim 12, wherein the ratio ~~(Sb/Sa) between the overall surface area Sa on the side of said magnetic annular protrusion~~ has a side with a surface area Sa facing the main component consisting of laminated silicon steel sheets and the overall surface area Sb on the side of the main component consisting of laminated silicon steel sheets and has a surface area Sb facing the magnetic annular protrusion and wherein the ratio of Sb/Sa is at least 80%.

11. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claim:

12. (New) An MRI magnetic field generator comprising:  
a yoke;  
a pair of pole pieces disposed facing each other so as to form an air gap  
therebetween; and  
a pair of permanent magnets supported by the yoke, said permanent magnets for generating a magnetic field in the air gap, each permanent magnet having opposite ends, one end of each permanent magnet disposed facing the air gap and being directly attached to the pole piece, and the opposite end facing the yoke;  
the pole pieces being formed of a main component including a plurality of laminated blocks, each comprising a plurality of laminated silicon steel sheets, wherein the laminated blocks of the silicon steel sheets are laminated in a direction facing the pole pieces, and a magnetic annular protrusion disposed on a side of the main component facing the air gap.

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